

SPECIAL SESSION

JULY 15, 2019

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Monday, July 15, 2019, 5:30 p.m. and immediately following convened in a Work Session in the Council Chambers of the City Hall Annex, 501 N. Pinkerton St, Athens, Texas with the following members present, to-wit:

Monte Montgomery, Mayor
Robert Gross
Aaron Smith
Toni Clay

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary
Blake Armstrong, City Attorney

Staff Present: Buddy Hill, Police Chief, Paul Crayton, Assistant Fire Chief, Jennifer Robertson, Director of Human Resources, Katie Birk, Tourism and Cultural Resources Coordinator, Randy Williams, Utilities Director, Audrey Sloan, Director of Development Services, Derek Whiteley, Director of Information Technology, Mandie Quigg, Finance Director;

others present: Michael Hannigan, Rich Flowers, Will Traxson, Carol Morton, Peggy Rhodes, Lisa Denton, Michelle Zenor, Leslie Saunders, John Trent, Dede Sims, and other interested citizens;

with the following member absent: Ed McCain.

constituting a quorum at which time the following proceedings were enacted, to-wit:

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Mayor Monte Montgomery.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND/OR CITY MANAGER UPDATES INVOLVING COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ISSUES OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager stated the architects are comparing the City's plans with the plans the Cain Center Steering Committee submitted. She also stated the next step is to issue a request for proposals for a Construction Manager at Risk.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

There was no discussion.

DISCUSS FIRST READING OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ATHENS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO ENTER INTO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE AGREEMENTS AND EXECUTE LOAN DOCUMENTS WITH HVAC MANUFACTURING INC.

Mr. John Trent presented the item.

Councilmember Gross requested clarification on the requirements of the loan documents. After discussion; Ms. Borstad stated she would meet with Councilmember Gross and Mr. Trent to further discuss the requirements.

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary, read the caption of the Resolution aloud.

DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION, AS NECESSARY,
CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW BOARD MEMBER TO FILL
VACANCY ON THE ATHENS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mayor Montgomery explained the vacancy is to fill the unexpired term of Jeaneane Lilly. Will Traxson provided background information for Mr. Morgan Jones.

A motion was made by Mayor Montgomery, seconded by Councilmember Smith to appoint Morgan Jones as a new board member to fill vacancy on the Athens Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND TAKE ACTION, AS NECESSARY,
CONCERNING THE APPROVAL OF A BONUS TO FORMER ATHENS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS' EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John Trent presented the item and explained at the last Athens Economic Development Corporation's Board meeting, the Board voted to pay a bonus to Executive Director Lisa Denton for services rendered. He explained it is a discretionary bonus.

Will Traxson stated the Board decided on a discretionary bonus rather than waiting until 2021 for the assessed values for capital improvements.

Mayor Montgomery asked for Legal Counsel regarding the discretionary bonus.

Blake Armstrong, City Attorney, explained under Texas Government Code 551.071 the City Council can convene in Executive Session to receive legal consultation from the City Attorney.

Mayor Montgomery announced the City Council would convene in Executive Session Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071.

The City Council adjourned to Executive Session at 5:45 p.m.

The City Council returned to Special Session at 6:04 p.m.

Mayor Montgomery stated the City Council requested legal counsel regarding the discretionary bonus. He further stated the contract does not require the Council to pay a discretionary bonus.

Mr. Armstrong explained that it is a discretionary bonus. He further stated he has reviewed the contract and there are no requirements within the contract that obligates the City Council to make the bonus payment.

Mayor Montgomery entertained a motion to approve a bonus to former Athens Economic Development Corporations' Executive Director.

The item died due to the lack of a motion.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL'S REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Montgomery requested an update on the Cain Center.

Councilmember Gross requested an item to revise the Downtown Façade Improvement Grants.

The City Council recessed at 6:07 p.m.

The City Council returned to Special Session at 6:15 p.m.

ENTER INTO CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

The City Council entered into Work Session at 6:15 p.m.

Mayor Montgomery stated the City Council would move to agenda item 12) Discuss allocations for Fiscal Year 2020 Public Funding for aid to other organizations.

DISCUSS ALLOCATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 PUBLIC FUNDING FOR
AID TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Deborah Deas requested funding in the amount of \$3,930.00 for The Arboretum's "Fall Festival".

Carol Morton, Executive Director, Keep Athens Beautiful, requested funding in the amount of \$15,000 for Beautification Projects.

Leslie Saunders, Director, Henderson County Help Center, requested funding in the amount of \$5,000 for assistance with water and electrical bills through the United Way HELP Line.

Michelle Zenor, Director Henderson County Clint W. Murchison Memorial Library requested funding in the amount of \$15,000 for library services and programming.

DISCUSS FISCAL YEAR 2020 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR ALL
FUNDS

Mandie Quigg, Finance Director, presented proposed operating budget for all funds. Throughout the presentation the City Council discussed the proposed budget for all funds.

DISCUSS FISCAL YEAR 2020 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Ms. Borstad explained staff is working on the Utility 5 year CIP. She further stated there will be a Streets 5 year plan. She stated the items will be provided to Council and will be discussed at a later meeting.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 12th DAY OF AUGUST, 2019.

Monte Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary